REMARKS

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

The Abstract has been amended. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1 and 3-11 are pending in this application, with Claim 1 being independent. Claims 1, 3, 4 and 7-11 have been amended. Applicant submits that support for the amendments can be found in the original disclosure, and therefore no new matter has been added.

Claims 1 and 3-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,968,058 to Kondoh et al. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for the reasons discussed below.

Independent Claim 1 is directed to an imaging apparatus that includes an image data generating unit that generates first image data and an authentication data generating unit that generates first authentication data. As recited in Claim 1, the present invention includes, *inter alia*, the feature of an authentication unit that has (a) a first authentication mode where the authentication unit authenticates, using the first authentication data, whether the first image data has been altered, and (b) a second authentication mode where the authentication unit authenticates, using second authentication data generated by a second imaging apparatus, whether second image data generated by the second imaging apparatus has been altered. With these features, the imaging apparatus can perform an authentication function for image data generated by the imaging apparatus, using authentication data generated by the imaging apparatus, as well as for image data generated by another imaging apparatus, using authentication data generated by the other imaging apparatus. Applicant submits that the cited art fails to disclose or suggest at least this feature of Claim 1.

The cited reference Kondoh et al. discloses, in the fifth embodiment of the specification, an image server system 107 that acquires an image file from a storage medium 70 or an external unit 93. However, Kondoh et al. does not disclose or suggest that the image server system 107 can authenticate image data generated by another imaging apparatus using authentication data generated by the other imaging apparatus. According to the fifth embodiment of Kondoh et al., a public key memory 74 does not store a plurality of keys, each key being a public key K_{public}. Instead, there is mention of only one public key, K_{public}(camera) in image server system 107. Thus, the image server system 107 can authenticate only an image captured by a camera corresponding to the only public key, K_{public}(camera). Thus, Kondoh et al. does not disclose or suggest that the image server system 107 can authenticate image data generated by another imaging system, using authentication data generated by the other imaging system.

More specifically, if the public key K_{public} is incorrect, MAC1 is not decrypted correctly, and an image is always determined to be an altered image. Therefore, another public key K_{public} is clearly required for authenticating an image captured by a camera other than the camera corresponding to the only public key, K_{public}(camera). Since the image server system 107 does not have another public key K_{public}, the image server system 107 cannot correctly authenticate an image captured by a camera other than the camera corresponding to the only public key K_{public}(camera).

Accordingly, Kondoh et al. fails to teach or suggest at least the claimed authentication unit of Claim 1, having a first authentication mode and a second authentication mode as recited in Claim 1. Claim 1 is therefore patentable over that reference.

The dependent claims are believed patentable for at least the same reasons as Claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Favorable consideration and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by

telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-

listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

Attorney for Applicant
Brian L. Klock
Registration No. 36,570

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200
BLK/lcw

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